

September 12, 2023

Mr. Frank Zeoli
One Richard J, Conners Blvd.
Albany, New York 12204

Re: Manning Blvd. Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Zeoli,

The mission of Historic Albany Foundation is to preserve and protect Albany's built environment. This includes streetscapes as well as significant buildings and neighborhoods.

Albany's Manning Boulevard meets all these criteria. The gracious homes that line this street are representative of the turn of the century era in which they were built. They tell the story of how our city grew and expanded. The neighborhood remains a close community in which people settle in for decades, sometimes for generations.

The wide street and separate bridle paths have, for over a century, been a crucial part of Manning Boulevard's distinctive presence. As the city prepares a transportation plan for this community, it is imperative that the bridle paths are maintained as separate from the main road.

There are two important reasons for maintaining the bridle paths in the upcoming redesign. First it is an historic and unique design in a city that has already lost too much of its history. Second, Manning Blvd. is a busy road for commuters traveling across the city. The bridle paths provide safer egresses for the street's residents and provide a barrier from the nonresidential traffic, an important factor in neighborhood stability.

Finally, we urge the city to work closely with Manning Blvd. residents to resolve questions and concerns related to traffic control and the retention of the trees between the main boulevard and the bridle paths. As is usually the case, community residents are well-versed in how traffic patterns affect their community and the safety of both the travelers and the residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Pamela Howard
Executive Director